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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/657,475	09/08/2003	Curtis C. Ballard	200314482-1	2678
7590	12/14/2005			
			EXAMINER	
			NAMAZI, MEHDI	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2189	

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/657,475	BALLARD ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Mehdi Namazi	2189

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 6-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to amendment filed September 28, 2005.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 16 recites the limitation "the first data-caching" in lines 8, and 9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 6, 8-11, 13-16, and 18-20) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by McKean et al. (US. Patent No. 6,681,339).

As per claims 6, 11, and 16, McKean teaches a system for backing up information, comprising: a first data-directing device configured to receive data to be backed up (fig. 1, element 116, receives data from host system to be back up); a first backup storage device that is communicatively coupled to the data-directing device and that is configured to store the received data (fig. 1, data storage 108); a data-caching device that is coupled to the data-directing device and that is configured to store the received data (fig. 1, cache 120 located in controller 116 or data directing device receives data); a switch that is configured to communicatively couple the data-directing device to a second backup storage device responsive to a backup operation failure (cols. 4-5, lines 63-5, wherein during the failure of one of the controllers the surviving controller enters failback mode(switching to) uses its cache line data from its mirror area), wherein data stored in the data-caching device is transferred to the second backup storage device via the data-directing device responsive to the backup operation failure (col. 5, lines 1-19, by transferring data (mirroring from other cache) to back up storage either 108, or 110).

As per claims 8, 13, and 18 McKean teaches the backup storage devices are storage medium drives (col. 9, line 7).

As per claims, 9, 14, and 19, McKean teaches the received data is stored on a storage medium by the backup storage device (col. 9, line 7).

As per claims 10, 15, and 20, McKean teaches storing the received data by the data-caching device and storing the received data by the first backup storage device are performed substantially simultaneously (col. 4, lines 63-67, data is written into both caches of controllers in at the same time mirroring).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7, 12, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKean, and further in view of Kitamura et al. (2005/0044163).

As per claims 2, 7, 12, and 17, McKean teaches the claimed invention, but fails to teach that the switch is a fiber channel switch.

Kitamura teaches a system for performing efficient backup wherein a fiber channel switch has been used for main server and backup server (fig. 8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use fiber channel in switching system as taught by Kitamura into system of McKean in order to speed up data transfer through the switch.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-5 are allowed.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mehdi Namazi whose telephone number is 571-272-4209. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mano Padmanabhan can be reached on 571-272-4210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mehdi Namazi
December 6, 2005

Mehdi Namazi *Mano Padmanabhan*
12/9/05

MANO PADMANABHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER